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Ueber einige Veränderungen welche Gehörshallucinationen unter dem Einflusse des galvanischen Stromes erleiden. VON FRANZ FISCHER. Arch. f. Psychiatrie, 1887, p. 75.

Jolly, Erlenmeyer and others have recorded cases in which electrical stimulation of the acusticus caused, not a simple sensation of sound, but an auditory hallucination which Jolly thought to be reflex. Since then a closer relationship than was before suspected is held to exist between noises in the ear and auditory hallucinations. Fischer here describes two noteworthy cases in which the galvanic current applied to the central organs caused a change which favored the cessation of auditory hallucinations. The intensification of these hallucinations by chewing, by food (which was therefore refused), the amelioration of them by stopping the ears, the hyperkusia that attended their intensification, and the auditory obtuseness that marked their decline, all point to the same close relationship. Galvanization, it is inferred, however, intensifies psychic excitation unless it is applied when it has already begun to abate, when it is beneficial.

Experimentelle Untersuchungen zur Physiologie des Geruchs. Von ED. ARONSOHN. Archiv f. Anatomie u. Physiologie, III u. IV Heft, 1886, pp. 321-57.

These experiments were made under the direction of Professor Kronecker, and seem well calculated to allay the unusual distrust so commonly felt for subjective sensations in this particular field. On the basis of the old experiments of Tourtual and E. H. Weber, most text-books in physiology state that only gases and vapors, and not fluids, brought into contact with the olfactory organs, can excite the sense of smell. Solutions of salt, wormwood, dilute sulphuric acid, and cologne had been introduced into the nasal cavity. Valentin, and still more recently Vintschgau, after further experimentation, also reached the conclusion that only substances suspended in the air could be smelled. Yet the olfactory organs are covered by a layer of mucous secretion. The common view that fish not only have olfactory organs but use them was further tested by the author as follows: Ant eggs, a favorite food of gold fish, were saturated with clove oil or asafoetida and thrown into a tank, and approached but refused without being touched within several millimetres by the fish. By using a L tube the author introduced into his own nose solutions of camphor, clove oil, cologne and other substances, with special precaution to avoid injurious degrees of concentration and temperature, and found them distinctly odorous for some time and in more than 100 experiments. A temperature of 40°-44° C. gave best results. Such statements as Kant's, that "smell is taste acting at a distance," or Cloquet's, that "smell is to air as gustatory solutions are to fluids," must therefore stand corrected.

By further experiments it was found that a rinsing solution of about 0.73 per cent solution of salt was most favorable as an indifferent fluid to keep the function of the olfactory organs intact. Reckoning from this as a basis or unity, solutions of other salts of equally favorable degree of concentration were carefully determined and named "osmotic equivalents." Thus salt has the smallest osmotic equivalent of the chief fluids of the body. Of the other elements of blood serum, bicarbonate of soda has an osmotic